

Remarks

Claims 17-32, and 34 - 36 are in the case. Claims 1-16 and 33 have previously been canceled. Claims 24 and 27 have been amended. Claim 36 is new. Support for new claim 36 may be found in paragraph [0019] of the specification. The Examiner has allowed claims 22, 23, 29-32, 34 and 35 and rejected claims 17-21 and 24-28.

The Examiner rejected claims 24-28 under 35 USC 112 first paragraph. Although Applicants believed there was support for their original amendment, Applicants have amended claims 24 and 27 to the wording suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112 be withdrawn and claims 24-28 be allowed.

The Examiner also provisionally rejected claims 17-21 on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1, 3, and 4 of copending applications no. 11/665,575 and 11/665,574 (now issued as U.S. 7727595). While Applicants respectfully disagree with this rejection, to further prosecution, Applicants have included terminal disclaimers (and the necessary fees) with respect to these applications.

Therefore, the Applicants request that the remaining rejections be withdrawn and claims 17 – 32 and 34-36 be allowed to issue.

This reply is being submitted within the period for response to the outstanding office action. Although the applicants believe in good faith that no extensions of time are needed, the applicants hereby petition for any necessary extensions of time. You are authorized to charge deposit account 04-1520 for any fees necessary to maintain the pendency of this application. You are authorized to make any additional copies of this sheet needed to accomplish the purposes provided for herein and to charge any fee for such copies to deposit account 04-1520.

Respectfully Submitted,
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